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**CLAIM AMENDMENTS:**

1- 13 cancelled

14. (currently amended) The plain bearing composite material of ~~claim~~  
~~13~~claim 29, further comprising up to 2 weight % of each of Ni, Si,  
and Mn, and impurity-related components of up to 0.5 weight %  
each, but in total not more than 1 weight %.
15. (currently amended) The plain bearing composite material of ~~claim~~  
~~13~~claim 29, further comprising an intermediate layer disposed  
between said carrier layer and said sliding layer.
16. (currently amended) The plain bearing composite material of ~~claim~~  
~~13~~claim 29, wherein said sliding layer is lead-free.
17. (previously presented) The plain bearing composite material of claim  
16, wherein the plain bearing composite material is lead-free.
18. (currently amended) The plain bearing composite material of ~~claim~~  
~~13~~claim 29, wherein the plain bearing composite materials contains  
no antimony.
19. (currently amended) The plain bearing composite material of ~~claim~~  
~~13~~claim 29, wherein a composition of said sliding layer is AlSn(22-  
28)Cu(2.3-2.8).
20. (previously presented) The plain bearing composite material of claim  
19, wherein a composition of said sliding layer is AlSn(23-28)Cu(2.3-  
2.8).

21. (previously presented) The plain bearing composite material of claim 20, wherein a composition of said sliding layer is  $\text{AlSn}(23-27)\text{Cu}(2.4-2.7)$ .
22. (currently amended) The plain bearing composite material of ~~claim 13~~claim 29, wherein said hardness of said sliding layer is 110 to 140 HV 0.002.
23. (previously presented) The plain bearing composite material of claim 22, wherein said hardness of said sliding layer is 110 to 130 HV 0.002.
24. (previously presented) The plain bearing composite material of claim 23, wherein said hardness of said sliding layer is 115 to 130 HV 0.002.
25. (currently amended) The plain bearing composite material of ~~claim 13~~claim 29, wherein said carrier layer is formed by a  $\text{CuPb}(8-25)\text{Sn}(2-12)$  alloy.
26. (currently amended) The plain bearing composite material of ~~claim 13~~claim 29, wherein said carrier layer is formed by a  $\text{CuZn}(20-32)$  alloy.
27. (currently amended) The plain bearing element, a plain bearing shell for automotive applications, a crankshaft bearing shell, or a connecting rod bearing shell comprising the plain bearing composite material of ~~claim 13~~claim 29.
28. (new) A method for producing a plain bearing composite material, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) preparing a steel back layer;
- b) casting, sintering or cladding a carrier layer of bronze or brass onto the steel back layer;
- c) sputtering a sliding layer onto the carrier layer, the sliding layer comprising  $\text{AlSn}(22-30)\text{Cu}(2.3-2.8)$ , the sliding layer having a hardness between 110 and 150 HV 0.002.

29. (new) A plain bearing composite material produced by the method of claim 29.